

was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington, and schools were able to focus on his sterling example of character and leadership. We look forward to the day, when once again, February 22 is marked by patriotic festivities and lessons about the life of George Washington, which can teach and inspire American leaders of today and tomorrow.

As our nation's foremost founding father, Washington is relevant to each new generation because his prominent character traits—undaunted courage, unabashed patriotism, reasoned judgment, a profound sense of civic responsibility, and a deep, selfless commitment to country—never go out of style. Educating the children of America about the life and leadership of George Washington is an important investment in the future of our nation.

Your efforts are particularly important because as noted author and historian David McCullough has said many times, we are "raising a generation of historically illiterate children." Surveys and focus groups over the years tell us that most Americans—particularly young Americans—know the face of Washington because they see it every day on their dollars and quarters, but they don't know much more about him.

Why should we be concerned? Because George Washington was the most important, the most effective, the most powerful leader of our nation's founding era, and the shining example of his life is needed today more than ever.

To those like you who know and respect George Washington, it is crystal clear that many today have drifted so far from his standards of leadership that there is a real cause for concern for the future of our nation. We believe that George Washington is the best example of leadership and character the nation has ever known; therefore, it is our duty, our responsibility and our privilege to teach today's leaders and young people about George Washington's leadership with the hope that they will follow in his footsteps. Your legislation will be a significant step in that direction.

For example, a most compelling lesson for young people today is that George Washington served in the three most important leadership roles in the founding era. Quite remarkably, the Father of our Country was selected for each of these jobs unanimously, and, contrary to the common practice of the day, he gave up power and walked away from each of the positions despite strong support for him not to do so.

First, as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, he surmounted incredible odds, never took a day off in eight years of battle, and emerged victorious. But perhaps Washington's greatest moment came when he halted an attempt by his officers to overthrow the civilian government and make him king. He then resigned from the military entirely and returned to his life as a farmer at Mount Vernon.

With this resignation, Washington actually established a new definition of power. Before George Washington the road map was for great leaders to gain as much power as possible and keep it. But Washington truly believed in the concept of liberty—where the power rests with the people. He taught the world how to relinquish power—what an important lesson for the leaders of today.

Less than four years after his return to Mount Vernon, Washington was drafted to be President of the Constitutional Convention—because only he could bring the delegates together. He was elected as our first President and after serving two terms—he exited. He could have been elected again and again but he peacefully transferred power demonstrating that democracy really works.

Celebration of George Washington's Birthday on February 22 will help restore the position of the Father of Our Country as "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen," as Light-Horse Harry Lee said so many years ago. George Washington's sterling example of character and leadership provides the opportunity to refresh and inspire our country as we face formidable challenges both at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. REES,
President.

IN HONOR OF JAMES H. TROUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James H. Trout who is being honored as a 2011 Father of the Year by the Father's Day Council of Northeastern Ohio and the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Trout is the Executive Vice President of Acme Fresh Market Stores, serving on its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. He has been with Acme Stores since 1973, working in a number of different capacities in increasingly important roles, serving as Director of General Merchandise, Senior Director of Merchandising, and Vice President of Sales and Merchandising.

Mr. Trout and his wife, Debbie, are the proud parents of two children—Jennifer, 31, and Jeff, 29—and one grandchild. Jim and Debbie currently reside in Suffield, where they are active in their community. Mr. Trout, former President of the Suffield Jaycees, also serves as a trustee for the F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring James H. Trout, a hardworking and industrious man, and a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, on the occasion of his recognition as Father's Day Council's Father of the Year 2011.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. CONNIE FERRIS BAILEY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Ms. Connie Ferris Bailey, Executive Director of Operation Fresh Start, OFS, as she retires from her esteemed position after 34 years of service.

OFS was founded in 1970 and provides young offenders and high school dropouts with opportunities to learn basic work skills, prepare for high school equivalency exams, and secure employment. Furthermore, OFS stresses the importance of giving back to the community by renovating housing into safe, energy-efficient, affordable homes for low-income families. Over the past forty years OFS has built over 215 quality homes.

It is undoubtedly because of Connie's tireless leadership and energy that OFS is what it is today. In 1979, three years after joining

OFS, Connie assumed the role of Executive Director. Under her tutelage OFS expanded annual enrollment to over 150 youth and focused on helping participants achieve self-sufficiency and become contributing citizens of the community. Connie's dedication to building a sustainable future and continuing Wisconsin's proud environmental legacy led OFS to begin providing conservation and stewardship services in and around Dane County in 1980. Additionally, since 2005, OFS builds new homes to meet or exceed Wisconsin Energy Star standards.

Connie transformed lives of at-risk youth in Madison, Dane County, and across Wisconsin. To date, OFS has served over 7,000 people. Eighty-five percent of participants are between the ages of 16–24 and 80 percent complete the goals of the program. Studies show that an astounding 60–65 percent of graduates remain self-sufficient. These numbers only begin to explain why the OFS model that Connie helped shape is so successful. It is not surprising that, in 1998, then Governor Tommy Thompson was eager to work with Connie to establish Wisconsin Fresh Start, WFS, a network of non-profit agencies operating under the OFS model that provide services aimed at increasing self-esteem and self-sufficiency of troubled youth. Today, WFS includes 9 agencies in 12 communities around the state and OFS continues to provide technical assistance to WFS.

Over the years, Connie held every employment title within OFS, highlighting how vital each position is to the program's overall success. It is an understatement to say that Connie has been and forever will be an invaluable asset to OFS and our community as a whole. Her emphasis on the value of hard work, respect, and self-worth and her recognition of potential in each and every person makes her an inspirational role model. Thankfully, although Connie is retiring, she will continue to provide essential technical assistance to new Youthbuild USA programs throughout the Midwest. People like Connie and programs like Operation Fresh Start are yet another reason I am so proud to represent the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin. I join those across Wisconsin, the Midwest, and our great Nation in thanking Ms. Connie Ferris Bailey for her lifetime of service.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE DAWSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP 100 SCHOOLS TO WATCH

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate George Dawson Middle School in Southlake, TX for being recognized as one of the Nation's Top 100 Schools to Watch. George Dawson was chosen for its academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to students and ability to provide students with the resources, teachers and support they need.

Sponsored by The National Forum To Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, the Schools

to Watch program looks at schools that have the whole picture of education. After a written application is approved, state teams observe schools and conduct numerous interviews. Those who pass expectations are then approved to be Schools to Watch for three years. High-performing teachers, strong leadership, and a commitment to bring about continuous improvement are but a few of the strict criteria George Dawson met to receive this prestigious honor.

Educational success is the result of many factors, including hard work, innovation and a supportive community. I am proud to represent such a community, and especially a school that is reaching and surpassing all expectations. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating George Dawson Middle School on its recognition as one of America's Top 100 Schools to Watch.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH A. LANCI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth A. Lanci who is being honored as a 2011 Father of the Year by the Father's Day Council of Northeastern Ohio and the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Lanci, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Graphics Group, Inc., is also the Chairman of Project Love and Purple America. While Consolidated Graphics, Inc. is a leader in graphic art technology, Purple America is a leader in uniting Americans through shared values. Its mission is to create new forums to share beliefs, engage young people in meaningful dialogue, and connect all Americans through shared American ideals. Purple Love is a character-building program that has trained thousands of American teens and their educators to build a culture of kindness, caring and respect in their schools.

Mr. Lanci has also brought OneSight to Cleveland's Municipal School District, a nonprofit organization which has given free eye exams and eye glasses to thousands of children in the area.

Mr. Lanci's good work extends to his family as well. Mr. Lanci is a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, father to his three children, and grandfather to his six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Kenneth Lanci, a man of great honor and spirit, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, on the occasion being recognized as Father's Day Council's Father of the Year 2011.

RECOGNIZING THE DALLAS
HISPANIC YOUTH INSTITUTE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding students who are participating in this

week's Dallas Hispanic Youth Institute. Each year, the Hispanic College Fund hosts this empowerment event to help inspire Hispanic high school students in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to overcome barriers to higher education and pursue careers that only a college education can provide.

By attending the Hispanic Youth Institute, these students have shown their desire to continue their educational attainment and taken proactive steps to achieve those dreams. Despite being the largest minority group in the United States, Hispanics have the lowest rate of higher education completion. As the Hispanic population in Texas and throughout the United States continues to grow, ensuring opportunities and success for all is essential to our economy and welfare. We cannot continue to compete globally as a country if we let millions of bright minds slip through the cracks.

The Hispanic Youth Institute connects disadvantaged Hispanic high school students with local Hispanic professionals, college admissions officers, mentors, and other inspirational speakers. By providing informational seminars at on-campus settings, the Hispanic Youth Institute helps students build confidence and receive practical tools to help achieve a pathway to college.

Many of the students at this week's Hispanic Youth Institute will become the first person in their family to attend and complete college. This is an important step for these young people, as well as the next generation who will look towards their example. They will become the role models of tomorrow, and I hope that this week's event will inspire them to give back.

I would like to recognize the Social Security Administration for its commitment to volunteerism at the Hispanic Youth Institute under the direction of Raul Garduño. Additionally, I'd like to recognize Raul Magdaleno and all of the other individuals who have worked to make the Hispanic Youth Institute a success. Raul Magdaleno is the Chair of the Dallas Hispanic Youth Institute and has served as a key advocate for the program and Hispanic students since its inauguration in 2009. Each year, Raul inspires students through his story of overcoming extreme adversities to obtain a higher education by teaching students that the "number one ticket we have to fight poverty is education."

I am confident that this year's Dallas Hispanic Youth Institute will be a great success, and wish the 200 student participants best wishes in their studies and attaining their goals.

IN HONOR OF MR. BRIAN E. HALL
AND MR. WILLIAM D. HALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William D. Hall and Mr. Brian E. Hall who are being honored as a 2011 Father of the Year by the Father's Day Council of Northeastern Ohio and the American Diabetes Association. This father-son duo demonstrates the long-lasting, positive effect that one father can have on another.

Mr. William D. Hall is the founder of Hall's Trucking, which later became Industrial Transport, Inc. and later, Industrial Inventory Solutions. He also founded the Holly Development Company. Mr. Hall has been active in public policy as well as redeveloping neighborhoods. Despite Mr. Hall's many successful endeavors, his greatest source of pride remains his two children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Brian E. Hall is the son of William D. Hall. He is the current Chairman and CEO of Industrial Inventory Solutions, where he has helped the business grow into a national comprehensive logistics firm. Mr. Hall also holds many other positions, including Secretary and Governance Chairman for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Chairman of the President's Council Foundation, Trustee of the University of Cincinnati Foundation and Trustee of University Hospitals. Brian E. Hall's main commitment, however, is to his three children.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mr. William D. Hall and Mr. Brian E. Hall who exemplify model citizens and outstanding fathers. I wish Mr. William D. Hall and Mr. Brian E. Hall the best in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SERVICE ACADEMY SELECTION BOARD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my Service Academy Selection Board, an exemplary group of selfless, dedicated Washingtonians who have served our country and have been so generous to continue their service by helping me select nominees to the United States Service Academies. Although academy nominations and appointments are attributed to me, they are not, by any means, my singular effort. Most of the work, involving careful vetting and painstaking evaluation of each applicant, as well as encouragement and recruitment, is done largely by my Service Academy Selection Board.

The work of the Service Academy Selection Board is so critical to our nation that I ask the entire House to join me in recognizing and thanking the members of the District of Columbia's Service Academy Selection Board, who recommend to me the nominees from whom the academy selects appointees: Cdr. Kerwin E. Miller, USN (Ret), Chair, U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, attorney in private practice; George R. Keys, Jr., immediate past Chair, U.S. Air Force Academy, Class of 1970, Rhodes Scholar, partner with Jordan & Keys LLP; Wesley Brown, Chair Emeritus, U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1949, Academy's first African-American graduate, for whom the Academy's new field house is named; Steven Blust, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Class of 1971, President of the Institute of International Containers, former Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission; Capt. Karen Courington, USAFR, Air Force Academy Admissions Liaison Officer, C-17 pilot, employee of Deutsche Bank designing their "Veterans on Wall Street" initiative; David Gragan, U.S. Air Force Academy, Class of 1977, Senior Procurement Executive of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the